

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/373,984

Examiner

Joyce Tung

Applicant(s)

SU ET AL.

Art Unit

1637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/28/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are claims 1, 3-13, 20-21 and 25-26 (See claims 1-16).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 August 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/28/00
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The applicant's response filed 6/28/2004 to the Office action has been entered. Claims 1, 3-13, 20-21 and 25-26 are pending.

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Concerning 1, 3-13, 20-21 and 25-26, no prior art has been found teaching or suggesting the method for the amplification of a population of nucleic acids comprising a population of poly (A)+RNA wherein the method is performed in a single reaction vessel to synthesize multiple copies of RNA via four steps. There are three different buffers, which are sequentially added to the second, third and forth steps to synthesize the multiple copies of RNA.

The closest prior art is the reference of Sooknannan et al. (WO 96/17079, issued June 6, 1996) in view of Mak (6,190,691, issued Feb. 20, 2001). Sooknanan et al. disclose terminal repeat amplification method in which the method provides a single medium comprising RNA polymerase, DNA polymerase and RNase (See the Abstract) and ligase (See pg. 8, first paragraph). The method produces double stranded DNA and then produces multiple copies of RNA from double stranded DNA (See the Abstract). Sooknanan et al. do not disclose that there were three different buffers which were sequentially added to the medium, but Mak suggests that PCR method can be performed in a step wise fashion where after each step new reagents are added, or in a fashion where all of the reagents are added simultaneously or in a partial step-wise fashion, where fresh or different reagents are added (See column 24, lines 29-34). However, neither Sooknannan et al. nor Mak teaches the exact steps of the instant invention for sequentially adding the different buffers. Thus, the limitations of the instant claims are patentable over the prior art.

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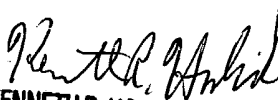
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joyce Tung whose telephone number is 703 (305) 7112. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30-5:00.

2. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 703 308 1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joyce Tung
October 8, 2004 JT


KENNETH R. HORLICK, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER
10/13/04